

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending September 7, 2003

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 4.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending September 7, 2003**. The sweetpotato harvest is in full swing with good yields being reported thus far. Some fields are fighting excess vegetation due to the recent rain showers. Soil moisture was rated 4 percent very short, 13 percent short, 72 percent adequate and 11 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2002	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Mature	96	89	98	97	0	0	8	49	43
	Harvested	65	42	67	72					
Cotton	Open Bolls	56	45	70	80	3	10	17	43	27
	Harvested	2	1	3	4					
Rice	Mature	70	49	81	71	0	1	5	39	55
	Harvested	32	15	21	25					
Sorghum	Mature	94	87	96	94	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	52	35	53	64					
Soybeans	Turning Color	71	60	64	72	0	4	18	38	40
	Shedding Leaves	52	45	48	53					
	Harvested	33	26	24	21					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	89	87	90	87	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	22	18	11	18	0	11	29	25	35
Cattle						0	2	17	70	11
Pasture						0	5	24	61	10

County Agent Comments

"Cotton harvest should get started this week. Rice harvest is going well. Most of our corn is out and soybeans are being harvested."

— Don Respass, Bolivar

"Rains during the last week have damaged cotton with open bolls. We need a good two week break in rains to finish harvesting corn and begin the soybean harvest. This will also allow cotton producers to begin defoliating fields."

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

"Thundershowers once again occurred throughout the earlier half of the week with dry weather finally arriving by week's end. Some corn harvest may begin next week followed by soybeans in another two to three weeks. Pastures are still in very good condition, but hay harvest is still hampered by wet conditions."

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

"Ryegrass ground preparation continues at a rapid pace. A few producers have completed early planting of ryegrass and small grains for grazing. Most producers will kick planting into high gear after September 15th. Dairy producers are breathing a little easier in appreciation of higher milk prices -- but are fearful of rising nitrogen fertilizer costs."

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Cooler morning temperatures have moved into the area driving out all moisture and allowing hay to be harvested for the first time in several weeks.”

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River

“We are having very poor conditions for cotton, but peanuts are looking very good. Much of the hay harvest is of very low quality and will have to be supplemented in the winter feed rations.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Recent rains have helped late cotton and soybeans, but halted harvest for a few days. Combines should be back in the field today. Defoliation has begun on the earlier cotton.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Producers have started harvesting corn. Cotton and soybeans are in good condition with no major problems.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“The cotton is almost done developing. It is just a matter of it finishing those last few bolls and dropping leaves. Beans are looking good except for the late beans. They have a bad case of frog eye.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“This week has been a continuation of the last several weeks in regards to rain and limited fieldwork. Producers need dry weather to harvest corn, milo and hay. Crops look good, but insects and diseases may change the current potential.”

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss

“Rain during the last week damaged cotton with open bolls. Corn harvesting has been delayed and some producers are reporting sprouting kernels in the field. Soybeans are showing development of seed rot, but so far, not as bad as last year.”

— Karen Benson, Attala

“Heavy rains this week have delayed hay, corn and soybean harvesting. It has also damaged cotton that has open bolls. We need sunshine for about two weeks to complete corn and soybean harvesting. This will also allow cotton producers to get fields defoliated. Corn yields have been good and soybean yields are fair.”

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

“Corn Harvest is complete. By the end of the week many producers were harvesting hay.”

— Mark Mowdy, Franklin

“Additional showers this week held up soybean harvest. Two weeks of sunshine are needed to harvest early beans and open and defoliate a good looking cotton crop. Pastures are great for this time of year, but some hay has been rained on after cutting.”

— Terry Rector, Warren

“Forages for livestock are going backward. Livestock producers are breaking ground and waiting on a rain to start planting cool season forages. Cotton will be defoliated this week.”

— Jon Kilgore, Lawrence

“Drier weather has allowed the harvest of some hay. The quality of the hay will most likely be low due to over maturity. Also, we could have a hay shortage due to not being able to put up a good supply. Cotton and peanuts look good and cotton is cutting out. Cattle are beginning to lose a little condition due to tough grass.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Most of this past week was good hay harvesting weather. There is still some hay to be cut. Hay supplies may be tight if we have a long and cold winter. Ryegrass fields are being broke to allow moisture to enter the ground in preparation for ryegrass planting.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“Corn harvest continued during a break in the weather. Preliminary yields are very good. Cotton harvest will begin this week assuming the weather holds out. Local showers continue to hamper hay harvest. As weather permits, winter grazing land is being prepared.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Weather Summary from September 1, 2003 to September 7, 2003 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston				77		1.50	+0.73	3	4.93				
Cleveland				77		1.62	+1.07	2	2.80				
Tunica	92	59	76	77	-1	1.67	+1.07	4	2.27	92	67	78	0.15
Extreme/Average	92	59	76	78	-2	1.60	+0.86	3	2.54	92	67	78	0.15
2. North-Central													
Batesville	89	60	77	76	+1	0.77	+0.06	2	1.24				
Calhoun City	89	59	76	76	0	2.59	+1.80	4	3.81				
Independence	88	58	75	76	-1	0.81	+0.03	4	0.85				
Oxford	91	57	76	76	0	1.26	+0.42	3	2.13				
Extreme/Average	91	57	76	77	-1	1.36	+0.53	3	2.39				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	88	62	76	75	+1	1.31	+0.47	3	3.06				
Corinth City	89	59	76	77	-1	2.09	+1.16	3	3.88				
Iuka	89	55	75	74	+1	0.41	-0.56	2	1.56				
Ripley	88	59	75	75	0	2.23	+1.41	3	4.02				
Tupelo	91	61	77			1.20		4	4.65				
Verona				77		1.78	+0.80	3	4.42				
Extreme/Average	91	55	76	76	0	1.45	+0.59	3	3.95				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	91	63	79	78	+1	1.05	+0.43	1	2.32	94	80	88	
Rolling Fork	93	61	79	78	+1	0.34	-0.29	3	1.58	96	78	88	
Stoneville				78		1.00	+0.35	3	1.97				0.30
Yazoo City	90	63	78	79	-1	1.20	+0.56	3	5.09				
Extreme/Average	93	61	79	79	0	0.90	+0.23	3	2.74	96	78	88	0.30
5. Central													
Canton	91	62	77	78	-1	1.64	+0.96	4	5.13				
Carthage	90	63	78	78	0	1.68	+0.85	3	4.32				
Lexington	91	59	76	77	-1	2.69	+2.02	4	3.72				
Eupora	92	59	77	76	+1	0.40	-0.42	4	1.53				
Extreme/Average	92	59	77	78	-1	1.60	+0.83	4	3.68				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	93	64	79	76	+3	1.79	+1.00	2	2.60				0.19
Houston	89	56	75	75	0	0.50	-0.38	4	3.00				
Louisville				76		0.74	-0.06	3	4.32				
State University	91	62	78	77	+1	0.45	-0.34	3	3.26	88	76	77	0.18
Extreme/Average	93	56	77	78	-1	0.87	+0.04	3	3.30	88	76	77	0.18
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	93	64	79	79	0	1.81	+0.79	3	2.91	94	75	84	
Natchez	92	60	77	79	-2	1.36	+0.45	2	5.32				
Oakley	93	61	79	78	+1	0.69	-0.08	4	1.99	93	79	85	
Vicksburg	91	60	79			0.55		5	1.98				
Extreme/Average	93	60	79	79	0	1.10	+0.26	4	3.05	94	75	85	
8. South-Central													
Collins	91	65	80	78	+2	0.36	-0.62	2	2.96				
Columbia	94	65	80	79	+1	0.16	-0.85	2	1.70				
Tylertown	94	64	79	79	0	0.24	-0.74	3	1.64				
Extreme/Average	94	64	80	79	+1	0.25	-0.73	2	2.10				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	95	69	81			1.12		3	9.39				
Hattiesburg				79		0.20	-0.85	1	4.67				
Laurel	92	68	80	78	+2	0.80	-0.21	3	2.72				
Newton	90	63	78	77	+1	0.46	-0.38	3	3.40	86	73	78	0.17
Extreme/Average	95	63	80	79	+1	0.65	-0.29	3	5.05	86	73	78	0.17
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	96	65	81	80	+1	2.33	+0.98	4	5.24				
Gulfport	90	69	81	81	0	1.58	+0.06	5	5.83				
Pascagoula				80		0.00	-1.60	0	3.45				
Poplarville	93	66	79	80	-1	0.62	-0.43	2	4.05	91	76	82	0.21
Waveland	91	69	81	80	+1	1.17	-0.41	3	4.75				
Extreme/Average	96	65	80	80	0	1.14	-0.26	3	4.66	91	76	82	0.21
State	96	55	78	78	0	1.07	+0.20	3	3.39	96	67	81	0.19

DFN = Departure from Normal.